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Thunderbirds Weather Attacks

BAGHDAD – Despite frequent indirect fire attacks this past week, the headquarters element of the 45th Infantry Brigade continues to conduct support operations in the International Zone.

“The past few days have been trying ... with a large number of indirect fires targeted at the IZ,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Bridges, of Nowata. “The soldiers are making the correct adjustments to allow them to continue doing their missions. Our soldiers are doing a fine job and in most cases interruption of task completion has been low during all of this. I am very proud of the way our soldiers are performing and how they reacted...”

The majority of the 45th soldiers work in detainee operations at Camp Cropper in southern Baghdad and Camp Bucca located in southern Iraq.

Headquarters Company, 45th Infantry Brigade, functions as Joint Area Support Group – Central. It provides logistics and personnel support, public works projects, and consolidate properties in the IZ. The unit supports Department of State and Department of Defense employees, Coalition forces, contractors and civilians.

Approximately 30,000 residents live in the four-square-mile IZ. Of those, roughly 15,000 are military and other government employees.

“Our soldiers completed three months of pre-deployment training to prepare them for duty in the combat zone, the soldiers know how to conduct operations, this is what we train for,” said Brig. Gen. Myles Deering, of Norman, the JASG-C commander.

The 45th soldiers work in a joint environment with service members from the Navy, Air Force and Marines. They also interact with the Embassy Regional Security Office, FBI, Dept. of Justice, Army Corp of Engineers and other agencies operating in the IZ.

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